

Considerations When buying Solid Wood Kitchen Cabinets

Hairline cracks:

Wood is an organic material. It is constantly expanding and contracting as it takes on or gives off moisture. It is always seeking 'equilibrium' with its environment. Because wood moves and paint cannot, a natural tension persists for the life of the door. The framing on the door is comprised of 4 pieces of individual wood. The top and bottom 'rails' of the door have grain that runs left to right. The left and right 'stiles' of the door have grain that runs top to bottom. Because of this, these four pieces of wood are expanding and contracting in opposite directions. This creates natural stress at the joint where these pieces of wood meet. Since the paint is not 'elastic' enough to keep up with this wood moving below it, the paint is forced to give and it does so at the corner joint, splitting in a hairline right at the joint. See the image below for an example as it shows a normal hairline crack not covered under warranty, even if it came out of the package this way.



It is important to understand that there is nothing we can do to prevent this from happening. When they leave the factory, the doors are at a moisture content of between 6.5 and 7.5% and the paint is not fractured. However, due to ambient humidity after the doors leave the factory, natural expansion or contraction can begin *right away*.

Offsets in framing:

Similar to framing cracks explained above, joint offsets can occur where the top and bottom rails expand beyond the ends of the vertical stiles. The last operation in the door making process is to edge profile the door and sand it. It will leave the factory perfectly flush. If you have offsets on the corners of your door where the top/bottom and left/right stiles meet, you can be assured you have a moisture-related issue. Remember, no door manufacturer can control wood movement due to moisture, so this is not considered a defect!

Your signature below indicates that you have read and understood the information herein, and you acknowledge its terms and conditions.

Printed Name: _____

Your Signature: _____

Date: _____